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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 09231 130908Z

10
ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ADP-00 CU-04 SIL-01 RSR-01 /045 W
---------- 070607
R 130611Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7266

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JOINT EMBASSY/USAID MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB/RP
SUBJECT: NOMINATION BY AFL-CIO OF FFF PRESIDENT MONTEMAYOR FOR AID TRAVEL GRANT
REFS: (A) STATE 149314; (B) MANILA A-121 (VIII-B)

1. NORMALLY, MISSION WOULD FIND MONTEMAYOR GOOD CHOICE FOR REF A PROGRAM, BUT TWO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS RAISE QUESTION

ABOUT WISDOM OF THIS NOW. FIRST, LONG-SIMMERING DISSENSION WITHIN FFF OVER POSTURE FFF SHOULD TAKE TOWARD MARCOS MARTIAL LAW REGIME CAME TO HEAD IN JULY WHEN MILITARY ARRESTED GROUP OF FFF LEADERS (CRITICS OF MONTEMAYOR), INCLUDING THREE NATIONAL OFFICERS, AND MONTEMAYOR UNDER PROFESSED "EMERGENCY POWERS" PROMPTLY DECLARED LATTER OUSTED FROM ORGANIZATION. WHILE MOST OR ALL OF THOSE ARRESTED RELEASED WITHIN FEW DAYS, MONTEMAYER'S ACTION AND COUNTERMEASURES OF THOSE "OUSTED", INCLUDING TWO COURT SUITS, HAVE CAUSED MONTEMAYOR AND THE ORGANIZATION SOME PROBLEMS, MAKING IT BEST, WE BLIEVE, FOR HIM TO DEVOTE MAXIMUM ATTENTION ON-SCENE TO RESTABLIZING HIS POSITION. SECOND, LABATT PRIVATELY INFORMED BY AGRICUL-

TURE SECRETARY TANCO THAT PRES MARCOS RECENTLY TOLD CABINET OFFICERS THAT HE SENDING MONTEMAYOR AND FORMER HUK LEADER LUIS TARUC ON BARNSTORMING MISSION TO STATES TO COUNTER PROPAGANGA AGAINST MARTIAL LAW AND MARCOS NEW SOCIETY FROM MANGLAPUS FORCES. MONTEMAYOR CONFIRMED THIS TO ANOTHER
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RELIABLE SOURCE AUG 7 AND INDICATED THAT WHILE HE THOUGHT

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SUCH A MISSION A MISTAKE WHICH WOULD GIVE MARCOS' ENEMIES IN
US NEW OPENINGS TO ATTACK THE REGIME HE WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE
BUT GO IF PRES INSISTED.

2. IF GOP LEARNED THAT AFL-CIO INVITING MONTEMAYOR TO SEMINAR
AND CONVENTION UNDER AID GRANT, PRESSURE ON MONTEMAYOR TO USE
THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PRAISE MARTIAL LAW AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS
LIKELY TO BECOME IRRESTIBLE. US OFFICIAL INVOLVEMENT
THROUGH GRANT COULD BE MISINTERPRETED. IN SHORT, BELIEVE
OLAB AND EA/LABOR SHOULD OUTLINE CIRCUMSTANCES TO AFL-CIO AND
SUGGEST LATTER EITHER INVITE SUBSTITUTE OR SKIP PHILS ON THIS ONE.
AAFLI DIRECTOR
PALADINO IS BRIEFED ON SOME OF CIRCUMSTANCES
ABOVE AND KNOWS VIEWS OF AAFLI/MANILA COOPERATIVES ADVISER DE
LA TORRE ON THIS MATTER.SULLIVAN

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